

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Rumania

REPORT

SUBJECT

Miscellaneous Military Information.

DATE DISTR.

1 March 1961

NO. PAGES

1

REFERENCES

RD

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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copies of four reports containing 50X1-HUM

information on the following:

- The Rumanian Frontier Guard.
- Engineer Officers Course of the Academic Reserves.
- 119 Independent Battalion of the Railroad Engineers Brigade.
- Miscellaneous Military Information.

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COUNTRY : Rumania
SUBJECT : The Rumanian Frontier Guard

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DATE OF INFO
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SOURCE

1. The Rumanian Frontier Guard is subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior (MAI). Since it is an armed force of the MAI it maintains close relations with the Securitate battalions, with which it holds joint courses. Frontier Guard instructors train Securitate personnel and vice-versa.
2. The following seven Brigades are subordinate to the Frontier Guard:
 - a. Arad Brigade
 - b. Constanta Brigade
 - c. No. 16 Iasi Brigade
 - d. Oradea Brigade
 - e. Sibot Brigade
 - f. Turnul Magurele Brigade
 - g. Turnul Severin Brigade

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Only the number of the Iasi Brigade is known.

3. Each Brigade is divided into battalions, but the number of battalions in each Brigade is determined by the size of the border section for which it is responsible. Thus, there are more battalions in a Brigade responsible for a long section of the border, than in a Brigade supervising a shorter section. The battalions are numbered on a national scale in a clockwise direction around the border, beginning from Battalion No. 1 at Galati. According to this system, for example the battalion at Constanta should be No. 6, at Arad No. 22 and at Sighet, No. 30. (These latter three numbers are conjectured; the actual numbers are unknown).
4. The battalions themselves are not equal in strength and the number of their subordinate companies also depends upon the length of the border section for which the battalion is responsible. Furthermore, the personnel T/O of the companies does not correspond to normal company strength. Following is the command T/O of an average Frontier Guard battalion:
 - a. Commander.
 - b. Chief of staff.
 - c. Second-in-Command (political)
 - d. Personnel officer.
 - e. Field security officer
 - f. Operations officer
 - g. Signals officer
 - h. Motor Transport officer
 - i. Border company commanders.

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The signals and MT companies are no more than enlarged sections (approximately 12 men in each), while the remainder of the headquarters personnel are organized into an "alert platoon", which is put into operation should there be a severe manpower shortage.

5. The T/O of the frontier companies consists of a commander and a second-in-command. Each company is divided into sections, whose size depends upon the length and terrain of the border section for which the company is responsible. Since each company has only 15 to 25 men, there are no junior officers. Patrols which are occasionally organized for special operations are headed by non-commissioned officers.
6. The 16 Iasi Brigade is responsible for the border area stretching from Radauti to south of Iasi. The Brigade headquarters is located on Munte Rodie Street, in the southern part of Iasi. Three companies, all well below strength, (signals, MT and services) are attached to the above mentioned headquarters.
7. The following battalions are subordinate to the above-mentioned Brigade:
 - a. Borchol
 - b. Galati
 - c. Husi
 - d. Possibly Murgeni
 - e. Radauti
 - f. Stefanesti
 - g. Ungheeni
8. The Galati battalion (Batalionul 1 Graniceri - Galati), which is stationed in Florilor Street, opposite Cesar Street, in the town center, comprises the following frontier companies:

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- a. Company No. 1 - Gura Prut.
 - b. Company No. 2 - Sivita.
 - c. Company No. 3 - Frumusita.
 - d. Company No. 4 - Branesti.
 - e. Company No. 5 - Vladesti.
 - f. Company No. 6 - Cancea.
 - g. Company No. 7 - Rogojeni.
 - h. Company No. 8 - Vladeni.
 - i. Company No. 9 - Girja.
9. The signals company of the Galati Battalion is divided into two sections; a radio section comprising six men and a line communications section with four men. Communications both with Bucharest and Iasi are by telephone. As a rule the post office lines are used, but there exists a special Frontier Guard line strung on poles, which links the Brigade headquarters with Hasi, Girja and Galati. A network of special Frontier Guard lines from Galati to the auxiliary units is the only means of communication with the frontier companies. All the auxiliary units are called by code names which are frequently changed. Radio communications are maintained by two R-20 sets, which are only used in an emergency. In the event of some special border incident a radio operator with one of the above mentioned sets is attached to the patrol which is sent out to the scene of the incident and transmits reports back to base. These sets were originally for transmitting Morse code but they have been fitted with a hand-sets, making communications easier and quicker. Even when Morse code is transmitted, signals are not coded.

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10. In recent years there have been no serious incidents in the sector guarded by the Galati battalion. The only outstanding incident was the capture of a "special" smuggler in November 1958. A 47-year old man was caught after he had crossed the Soviet border into Romanian territory dressed as a beggar. He spoke a number of languages fluently and a careful search of his person revealed a map of the Galati district drawn on some thin plastic material. He was immediately sent to Bucharest and nothing more was heard of him.
11. The Frontier Guard recruit depot (FFN 0104) occupies former cavalry barracks in the southern part of Birlad on the West side of the road to Galati. It is faced by an artillery regiment and on the opposite side of the road and on its south side by another regiment. A new parachute school was under construction at this location in late 1956. This entire area is close to the railroad line and is visible from passing trains. In late 1956, nine recruit companies were in training at this depot. Each company consisted of four (40 men each) platoons. This depot was permanently manned by a service company and the command and training staff consisted of company commanders and second-in-commands, platoon commanders and second-in-commands with four noncommissioned officers to each platoon. The noncommissioned officers ranged from corporals to warrant officers, many of them regular servicemen. The above mentioned companies reduced their six month basic training period to 45 days because of the serious manpower shortage in the frontier units. Their training was highly concentrated, with daily field training from 0370 to 1400 hours

and 3-4 km. runs with full equipment and lectures from 1600 to 1930 hours. At night there were alerts and many speed exercises, although there was little actual night training.

12. The lectures included political indoctrination, small arms, topography, military discipline and behavior. Topography included map reading, use of the compass and orientation in the field. The small arms taught included the 23 rifle and light machinegun, the PTRS and Romanian Orita submachine guns, defense grenades and a "silent sentry" type Very light projector embedded into the ground which is activated by a trip wire (see paragraph 21). (The latter are for the special use of the Frontier Guard). The field training comprised individual, section and platoon exercises, digging foxholes and camouflage.
13. Another subject, which was taught during the above-mentioned basic training period, was tracking and methods of identifying border smuggling activities. Among other things, common methods of crossing ploughed border strips were mentioned. These included walking backwards, wrapped shoes, the use of shoes which leave animal imprints such as horseshoes, and the use of stilts.
14. A Ministry of the Interior training depot, which is located at Cimpina, is for the advanced training of various specialists and is called "Scola de Specialisti - MM". It is located in a wood on the northern outskirts of Cimpina and was formerly an officers school. It is now used for training Frontier Guard and Securitate Battalion personnel.
15. During January-October 1957, radio operators, telephone operators electric generator operators and drivers were trained at the above mentioned depot. The students were divided as follows:

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- a. Eight driver training companies.
- b. One signals company.
- c. One electric generator mechanics company.

Each company included some 4 to 6 platoons, comprising from 30 to 40 students.

16. The signals company comprised four radio operators platoons and two telephone platoons. Besides the signal subjects, the students did general military training such as section field training and small arms instruction. As the duties of the Frontier Guard differ from those of the Securitate battalion, they did their general military training separately.
17. The participants of the above mentioned radio operators course took a month-long preparatory course at their regional Brigade headquarters prior to their arrival at the depot. This was to ensure the course a high standard from the start and also to shorten the participants' stay at the training depot. Morse transmitting and receiving and the R-20 radio set, which is a Hungarian made copy of a Soviet type set, were taught at the preparatory course.
18. The central radio operators course which lasted eight months consisted of the following:
 - a. The obsolescent "G" type radio set, with a hand-operated dynamo.
 - b. RRM set, which was assembled in Rumania with Soviet components.
 - c. Truck mounted RAF set.
 - d. Reception of letters at an average speed of 110 per minute.
 - e. Reception of figures at an average speed of 125 per minute.
 - f. Transmitting letters at an average speed of 90 to 100 per minute.Most of the students reached a high standard of training in all the subjects.

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19. In late 1958, Frontier Guard non-commissioned officers participated in a platoon commanders course for Securitate battalion personnel, which was held at a Securitate battalion headquarters in the center of Palticeni.

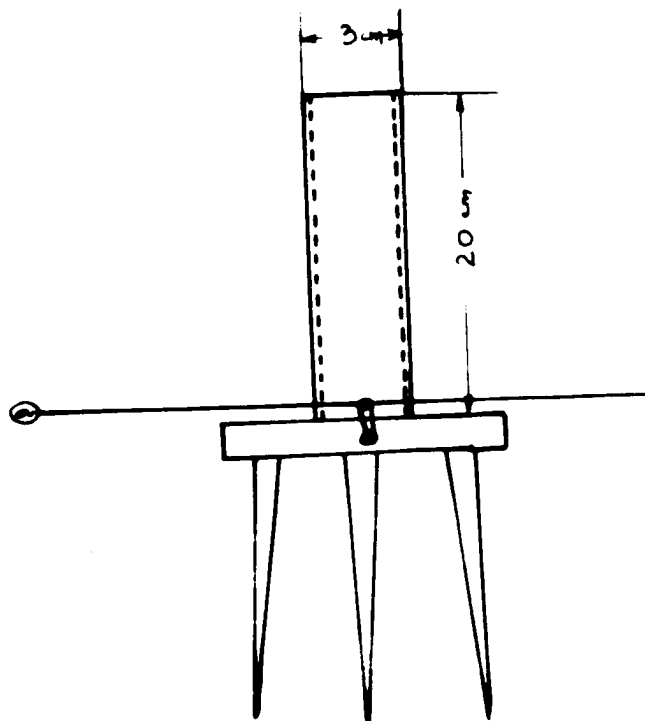
20. The above mentioned course lasted for two months and was divided as follows:

- a. Four Securitate "alert platoons" (Trupe de Interventie), with 40 men in each.
- b. Four Securitate guard platoons (Trupe de Securitate-Paza), with 40 men in each.

The students who took the course were privates who subsequently were promoted to ranks ranging from sergeant to sergeant-major upon completion of the course. Among the subject taught at this course were radio communication, interrogation of prisoners, the detection of enemy activity in the field (partisans, paratroops, etc.), the use of watch-dogs, surveillance, etc. The course was of a high standard, both in the quality of the students and the instructors, and far greater effort was put into this course.

21. The sketch of Frontier Guard "silent sentry" very light projector is as follows:

- A. Trip wire.



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COUNTRY : Romania

SUBJECT : Miscellaneous Military Information

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1. From November 1957 to November 1959 an MFA labor unit [redacted] was stationed at Balta Saruta, near Guransebes. The commander of the unit was Major Gpren and his deputy for political affairs was Captain Virgil Paciuera. The unit was employed on the reintegration of a local lumber mill.
2. In the summers of 1956 and 1957, the students of the mathematics faculties of Iasi, Iluj, and Bucharest Universities did practical artillery training within the framework of the Academic Reserves. In each of those years they trained for a period of one month at the barracks of the 21st (?) Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment in Foceni; these barracks were situated

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next to those of a Soviet air force unit. The training courses, commanded by a German-born, veteran artillery officer named Colonel Neaga, concentrated mainly on the 122-mm. antiaircraft artillery gun (without radar or central fire control), which was operated by a six-man crew.

3. During 1953 to 1955, an infantry regiment (number unknown) was stationed in the district town of Agnita. A large ration store which served all the military units in the area, including the infantry regiment, was located at Apold.
4. The students of the geology faculty of the University of Iasi served in the mountain infantry within the framework of the Academic Reserves. In the summer of 1954, they did a month's training with a mountain infantry regiment in Orasul Stalin. During this period the students did their basic infantry training. In the summer of 1957, they underwent another period of training which lasted almost two months. This training course was held at a summer camp in Cotul Giorci, a forest near Buzau where the students did advanced infantry training, including a comprehensive study of various weapons (no details). Examinations were held at the end of this course, successful students being commissioned as reserve 2nd lieutenants. They were told that they would be called-up for reserve service within three years' time and that they would subsequently be promoted to lieutenants.
5. The students of the agricultural machinery faculty in Gratiava served in the armored corps within the framework of the Academic Reserves; their

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practical training was divided into the following two periods:

- a. A two-month period in the summer of 1952 at an armored corps camp in Golibasi [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM
[REDACTED] The training course was commanded by Colonel Muma, assisted 50X1-HUM
by Major Brat.
- b. A two-month period in the summer of 1954 at an armored brigade camp in Targoviste. The training period was commanded by Colonel Cristescu, and the main subject of the course was the T-34/85 tank.
6. During 1953-1956 an MFA labor unit [REDACTED] was stationed to 50X1-HUM
the rear of the Bulikovski cemetery in Oradea. The unit was employed
in the repair of the town barracks, which were concentrated in that
vicinity. The unit was also employed on the construction of a new
hospital for officers in the vicinity of the Oradea civil airfield. The
labor unit was commanded by Major Marinovici, and the deputy for political
affairs was Captain Flugaru.
7. During 1952/1953, an antiaircraft artillery regiment equipped with radar-
controlled 85-mm guns was stationed in Bucharest [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM
[REDACTED]

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COUNTRY : Rumania
SUBJECT : Engineer Officers Course of the Academic Reserves
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1. In June 1956, the students who had completed the second year of their studies in the Faculties of Construction, of Highway, and of Sanitary Engineering at Bucharest University were assembled at an engineer corps base in Alba Iulia. There were a total of about 250 students, divided into three companies, who trained for a period of thirty days.
2. In June 1958, students who had completed the fourth year of their studies at the Faculties of Construction and of Highway Engineering were assembled at the same base for the continuation of the course, which again continued for thirty days. It had some 150 participants. At the same time, the students who had completed their fourth year at the Faculty of Sanitary Engineering did a similar period of training at the engineers corps base at Ramnic Valcea.

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3. The practical training given at Alba Iulia was a direct continuation of the theoretical lectures which the students had received during the academic year at their faculties, within the framework of the Chair of Military Studies. These lectures included the following subjects: engineers corps and infantry tactics, construction and demolition of roads and bridges, minelaying and demolition, and military discipline and practice; military procedure. The graduates of this course were to serve as demolition officers (?) in reserve engineers units.
4. The practical training included the following subjects:
- a. Small arms: EB rifle, TT pistol, PPS submachine gun and a light machinegun of unspecified type. Range practices were held for each of these weapons.
 - b. Individual, section, and platoon field training: only attack and defense exercises.
 - c. Chemical warfare protection: gas mask training, and the principles of classic war gases.
 - d. Topography.
 - e. Camouflage: only for the purpose of concealing fortifications.
 - f. The establishment of firing positions and communication trenches. This subject was taught only in theory and did not comprise fencing.
 - g. Demolition: demolition materials, such as 100-500 gram. charges of tetryl, time fuses, and pressure and pull igniters. Exercises comprised the spitting of heavy timber posts and blasting rock obstacles. The demolition of other objectives was studied in theory only.

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- h. **Mine laying:** anti-vehicle (a wooden box with two pressure igniters) and anti-personnel mines (Mina Penar). The latter comprised a wooden box with a butterfly igniter. The mine was actuated by the lid being pressed down from above. Only wooden training mines were demonstrated to the students, who were divided into three-man squads. They exercised laying them in the field, at average distances of some three meters apart.
- i. **Mine disposal** was explained in a superficial manner and no equipment was demonstrated.
- j. **In bridging**, the stress was on carrying and laying metal pontoons of an unspecified type and the speedy assembly of prefabricated wooden bridges. No complete bridge was ever erected which could possibly have been put into practical use.
- k. **River crossing** was not taught.
5. **Students who successfully passed the final examinations at the end of the second training period** were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants, the ranks becoming effective after they graduated.

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COUNTRY : Rumania
SUBJECT : 419 Independent Battalion of the Railroad Engineers
Brigade

DATE OF INFO

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1. In late December 1956, the 419 Independent Battalion of the Railroad Engineers Brigade, which was subordinate to the Second Military District was transferred to Birlad. The unit was billeted on the right-hand side of the Botosani Tesuci Road going in the direction of Tesuci, in the vicinity of a frontier guard barracks and opposite the barracks of an artillery unit. The men in this battalion wore black shoulder boards with the "winged wheel" emblem of the railroad troops.
2. This unit was divided into four companies, each company having 100 men. Company "C" was responsible for the construction, maintenance and repair of tracks and "D" Company was responsible for the construction, maintenance and repair of railroad bridges (no details available concerning the activities of the other two companies).

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3. This battalion had the following equipment at its disposal:
- a. A German made 10-ton mobile crane.
 - b. A German made 500 kg mobile crane.
 - c. Approximately 10 German made air compressors (used for drilling demolition holes in bridges).
 - d. Approximately 10 electric generators. The largest of them had an output of 400 W.
 - e. Many (amount not specified) new 200 liter cement mixers.
 - f. A train comprising a generator coach, a metal workshop coach and two to three sleeping coaches.
 - g. Two (20-seater) motor boats.
 - h. Approximately five 4.5-ton metal barges.

When any item of the above mentioned equipment was not in use, it was kept in a store in good condition and was periodically oiled, started and tested.

4. New recruits posted as reinforcements to the above mentioned battalion, were given 45 days of basic training, which included the following subjects:
- a. Light arms: EB rifle, Orita and FPS submachinegun and attack grenade.
 - b. Demolition: demolition materials (T.N.T. bricks, fuses, detonators, etc.), the principles of disarming mines (in theory), blasting concrete posts, beams and ice, excavating with the aid of explosive charges.
 - c. Individual field training, marching and rifle drill, military discipline and regulations.

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5. The main work projects carried out by the subject unit were as follows:
- a. The reconstruction of the railroad bridge at Bartosi [B-525 EK792], which had become obsolescent. The bridge was approximately 50 m. long, with four arches and was intended for a single railroad track. The metal construction of each span weighed 300 tons, including the railings.
 - b. The reconstruction of a small railroad bridge at Zebii [B-457 EK845] (Constanta Province), which had been swept away by a flood.
 - c. The reconstruction of a small double-track railroad bridge at Cernavoda.
6. Some of the personalities at the Railroad Troop Battalion in Birlad are as follows:
- a. Lt. Colonel Laurentiu Cristescu was the commander of this battalion until 1956, when he was appointed officer in charge of administration of the railroad engineering brigade in Bucharest. [REDACTED]
 - b. Major Ioan Popescu has been the commander of this battalion since 1956. [REDACTED]

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